

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - RECOMMENDATION

### Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

**Subregion:** NORTH **County:** MODOC  
**Applicant:** CENTRAL MODOC RIVER CENTER  
**Project Title:** CENTRAL MODOC RIVER CENTER CAPACITY BUILDING  
**Application Number:** SNC 070158

#### PROJECT SCOPE

This capacity-building project supports the Central Modoc River Center in its role as a watershed educator and community resource in Modoc County. Funding under this program supports the River Center's role in conducting two outreach and educational projects: the *Wings of the Warners* and the Pit River Adoption project.

*Wings of the Warners* teaches families about migratory waterfowl and the importance of the local watersheds to the lifecycle of these species, while the Pit River Adoption Project provides two field trip sessions for Alturas-area high school students to the River Center and the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge. The field trips will take place in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 and will accommodate approximately 500 students over a two-week period for each season. Two buses per day will transport students to the River Center and the Refuge. Teaching assistants, under the direction of a project coordinator and the River Center Director, will teach students about the river, watershed, and wildlife through a series of place-based learning activities and educational materials that meet California state curriculum standards. Additional education and demonstrations will be provided by volunteer teachers and agency personnel.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Approve at the reduced amount of \$23,500 to focus the efforts on two specific projects – the *Wings of the Warners* event and Pit River Adoption Project – to educate area high school students and local residents about the importance of watershed health in the Pit River watershed. The Pit River Adoption Project is a newly revised program for the River Center, which has a history of providing popular and important educational services and outreach to the local area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing a matching grant of \$20,000 for this project (which will pay for administration costs, travel, bus transportation for the students, educational materials, and a portion of the Coordinator's time).

#### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

No support letters were provided.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
<b>Wings of the Warners</b>	
Twice-monthly Event Committee meetings	June – September 2008
Obtain City, County & State permits	June/July 2008
Arrange for support services and volunteers	July/August 2008
Arrange for vendors and necessary permits	July/August 2008
Complete event schedule and site layout	August/September 2008
Hold <i>Wings of the Warners</i> event	September 2008
<b>Pit River Adoption Program</b>	
Event Committee meetings (1 to 2 per month)	July – October 2008
Meetings with Wildlife Refuge and other agencies	July – October 2008
Teacher/Teaching Assistant training	August 2008
Supply procurement / event arrangements	August – October 2008
Site preparation	Sept./Oct. 2008
<i>Fall 2008</i> Pit River Adoption field trip session	October 2008
6 month progress report (covering both projects)	January 2009
Event Committee meetings (1 to 2 per month)	February – May 2009
Meetings with Wildlife Refuge and other agencies	March – May 2009
Teacher/Teaching Assistant training	March 2009
Supply procurement / event arrangements	March – May 2009
Site preparation	April/May 2009
<i>Spring 2009</i> Pit River Adoption field trip session	May 2009
<b>FINAL REPORT</b>	June 30, 2009

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Event coordination and logistics - <i>Wings of the Warners</i>	3,500
Pit River Adoption Program pre-field trip procurement & arrangements, training of teaching assistants, field support and day-of coordination	11,300
6 Teaching Assistants for Pit River Adoption field tours	7,200
Pit River Adoption procurement, contract management & reporting	1,500
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,500</b>

## Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: The Central Modoc River Center Capacity Building Project proposes to build capacity for watershed educational programs by providing outdoor field trips, publications and public event activities for all ages. The River Center, located in Alturas California, organized as a non-profit in 2003 with a mission to foster natural resource stewardship and to promote the sustainability of the local community.

Since 2003, the River Center developed a modest facility with interpretative displays and several environmental education programs. The River Center staff consistently coordinate with schools and resource agencies in bringing River Center programs to the community.

Currently, grant funding from several sources provides for a full-time Executive Director, and an Environmental Education Coordinator (contracted). The Capacity Building Project would continue funding for these staff positions once current funding is expended and provide for additional part-time educators. River Center staff plan and coordinate outdoor field trips for learning about watershed concepts, birding, geology, naturescaping, local sustainability, wildlife and more. The River Center staff publish environmental education articles, ads and photographs in local newspapers and publications. The River Center staff produce a quarterly newsletter, 'The Watershed Monitor.' The 'Monitor' is published as an insert in the 'Modoc Record' with distribution throughout Modoc County. The River Center participates in several annual special events such as the Children's Fair in May, the Modoc District Fair in August, the Wings of the Warners in September and the Pit River Clean-up, also in September. During 2007, staff also participated in the Modoc County Weed Tour, California Coastal Commission Coordinators Workshop, Project Learning Tree workshops, Resource Advisory Committee tour, Organic Certification for Agriculture Workshop, Naturescaping Workshop, Economic Vitality Group meetings and Watershed Management Strategy meetings.

The Capacity Building Project will provide for staff time to expand public outreach activities. An opportunity exists to take a leadership role in organizing the Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival to include people from a regional area rather than limiting the event to its current local focus. The proposed project provides for staff time to implement a funding action plan identified in the Central Modoc River Center Business Plan. The business plan, developed in 2006 and 2007, identifies five sources to develop ongoing and sustainable funding for River Center staff and operations.

Total Project Cost: \$90,000